

REMARKS:

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-9 are allowable over the teachings of what he has determined to be the closest prior art references. These references include Ender (United States Patent 3,287,291), Nakamura et al (United States Patent 5,973,067), and Britton (United States Patent 5,618,951). However, the Examiner has objected to claim 8 on the basis of certain informalities.

The Examiner suggested it would be better to renumber the structural formulas provided in claim 8 as (7), (8), and (9). Claim 8 has been redrafted in this manner as new claim 10 (so as to avoid confusion that could result from the brackets contained in the structural formulas provided in claim 8).

It is believed that the amendment made overcomes the objection regarding claims 8. Since all of the claims pending in the subject patent application are allowable over the teachings of the closest prior art references, it is believed that the subject patent application is now in a condition for allowance and such an allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant(s)

Alvin T Rockhill, Reg. No. 30,417
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, D/823
1144 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44316-0001
Telephone: (330) 666-4659